

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A passenger vehicle comprising an engine that is longitudinally mounted in a front end of the vehicle, a gear reduction transmission provided between the engine and ~~from which~~ a drive shaft ~~leads~~ leading to rear vehicle wheels, and a fuel tank that is mounted between vehicle seats and extends in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle,

wherein the transmission is longitudinally mounted at a lateral side of the engine, and

wherein the drive shaft runs longitudinally alongside the fuel tank and to a side of a longitudinal vertical center plane of the vehicle, from the transmission front to the rear of the vehicle.

2. (original) The passenger vehicle according to Claim 1,

wherein an exhaust system of the engine runs from front to rear on a side of the fuel tank opposite the drive shaft.

3. (original) The passenger vehicle according to Claim 1,

wherein the fuel tank is designed more narrowly in a top section than in a geodetically lower section.

4. (original) The passenger vehicle according to Claim 2,
wherein the fuel tank is designed more narrowly in a top section than in a
geodetically lower section.

5. (original) The passenger vehicle according to Claim 3,
wherein the fuel tank has an approximately pear-shaped cross section and
is designed to hold liquefied gas.

6-9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A method of making a passenger vehicle with an
engine comprising the steps of: making the passenger vehicle of Claim 1
providing an engine longitudinally mounted in a front end of the vehicle;
locating a gear reduction transmission longitudinally at a lateral side of
the engine;
locating a fuel tank between vehicle seats and extending in a longitudinal
direction of the vehicle;
provided a drive shaft leading from the transmission to rear vehicle
wheels and running longitudinally alongside the fuel tank and to a side of a
longitudinal vertical center plane of the vehicle.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A vehicle comprising;
an engine being longitudinally mounted in a front of the vehicle;
a gear reduction transmission located longitudinally at a lateral side of the
engine;
a drive shaft leading from the transmission engine to rear wheels; and
a fuel tank being mounted between vehicle seats and extending in a
longitudinal direction of the vehicle,
wherein the drive shaft extends longitudinally at a lateral side of the fuel
tank and to a side of a longitudinal vertical center plane of the vehicle.

13. (original) A vehicle according to claim 12, wherein an exhaust system
extends from the engine to a rear of the vehicle on a side of the fuel tank opposite
to the drive shaft.

14. (canceled)